UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.16/1993/L.4
15 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
First session
12-23 April 1993
Agenda item 3

SUBSTANTIVE THEME: THE CONTRIBUTION OF TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING NEW AND EMERGING ONES, FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES, INCLUDING PROPOSALS ON WAYS AND MEANS OF TRANSFERRING SUCH TECHNOLOGIES AND FOR THEIR INCORPORATION IN THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR OF THOSE COUNTRIES

Austria, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Marshall Islands, Romania, Togo, United States of America and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Education, research and information as basic factors for sustainable development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Reaffirming the importance of human resources development and endogenous capacity-building in order to achieve sustainable development for all,

1. Emphasizes the role of the educational sector, including universities and research institutions, as the basis, inter alia, for effective science and technology transfer;

2. Notes with interest the measures proposed by Austria as set forth in the document entitled "Austrian Concept for University Development Cooperation";

3. Encourages all industrialized members of the United Nations, and countries in a position to do so, to consider adopting the following measures in the context of their bilateral and multilateral development cooperation activities;

(a) To develop programme packages tailored to the specific scientific, technological and educational system needs of benefiting countries, and emphasizing vocational-, college- and university-level education and research activities as well as educational cooperation with industrial enterprises;

(b) To put emphasis on on-site and South-South university scholarship programmes and the establishment of specialized regional centres of education, training and research in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, in order to avert cultural alienation and brain-drain effects;

(c) To give encouragement and support to North-South university partnerships and other university networks, aimed at long-lasting, intensive contacts and thus enhancing mutual understanding and high-level expertise on both sides;

(d) To give emphasis to enhancing equitable access of both genders and of all people to science and technology education and science and technology information;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to review the existing science and technology activities of the United Nations system and to study the possibilities of strengthening the United Nations system in facilitating science and technology human resources development and endogenous science and technology capacity-building in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition through educational measures, and to present a report of his findings, along with action-oriented recommendations, to the Commission during its inter-sessional period, including an analysis of the financial implications of the proposed initiatives;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the report requested in operative paragraph 4 above, to review the science and technology information networking of the United Nations system and to explore the feasibility of providing broad and affordable access to international scientific networks, especially the International Project Management Association (INTERNET), to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition, and to make proposals, inter alia, on financial implications, with a view to creating a global means of scientific communication and information transmission;

6. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council invite all relevant entities of the United Nations system to consider ways and means of harnessing the resources of the education and research sector for the purpose of enhancing endogenous science, technology and research capacity-building in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.